

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 02076 160712Z

53

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8442

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, TO, CG

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE TALKS IN LIBREVILLE

SUMMARY: PRESIDENTS EYADEMA (TOGO) AND MOBUTU (ZIAIRE)
JOINED GOG PRESIDENT BONGO FOR BRIEF TRIPARTITE TALKS IN
LIBREVILLE OCTOBER 14. BOTH VISITORS HELD AIRPORT PRESS
CONFERENCES, BUT NO ANNOUNCEMENT MADE REGARDING SUBSTANCE
OF THREE WAY CONVERSATIONS. GOG OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY
HINTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE,²
BUT HELP OF INFO ADDRESSEES WILL BE NEEDED TO OBTAIN
FURTHER CLARIFICATION. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. PRESIDENTS EYADEMA OF TOGO AND MOBUTU OF ZAIRE BOTH
PAID BRIEF VISITS TO LIBREVILLE OCTOBER 14 AND HELD
TRIPARTITE TALKS WITH THEIR GABONESE HOST. MOBUTU WAS
ENROUTE HOME FROM ATTENDANCE AT SENGHOR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
AND SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IN
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 02076 160712Z

YAMOOUSSOUKRO, WHILE EYADEMA MADE SPECIAL TRIP TO GAON

TO JOIN HIS GABONESE AND ZAIREAN COUNTERPARTS IN THREE WAY DISCUSSINS.

2. AT ARIPORT PRESS CONFERENCES ON ARRIVAL, BOTH EYADEMA AND MOBUTU MADE FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO SECRETARY KISSINGERS EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. " IF AFRICAN MAJOIRTY ACHEIVES POWER IN ZIMBABWE IN NEXT TWO YEARS," EYADEMA SAID, " WE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY BRAVO TO KISSNGER MISSION. IF NOT, STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE." MOBUTU SUBSEQUENTLY REMARKED THAT " KISSINGER MISSION CONSTITUTES RAY OF HOPE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF RHODESIAN CONFLIET AFTER ELEVEN YEARS OF FRUITLESS OAU RESOLUTIONS."

3. IN REPLY TO OTHER QUESTONS EYADEMA LAUDED STATE OF GOT-GOG RELATIONS: APPLAUDED NEW DIRECTIONS IN FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA; AND SAID BOTH CEAO AND ECOWAS ARE AT POINT OF TAKEOFF. MOBUTU RESPONSES COVERED GOZ- GOG RELATONS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS EXCLELENT, AND IMPORTANCEOF "HARMONY" IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION.

END UNCLASIFIED BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: GOG OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY SURROUNDED CONCURRENT EYADEMA AND MOBUTU VISITS WITH AIR OF MYSTERY. PRESIDENCY DIRECTEUR DE CABINET REMARKED TO ME OCTOBER 13 WITH CONSPRIATORIAL WINK THAT MOBUTU WAS COMING HERE FROM YAMOUSSOUKRO, THAT EYADEMA WAS MAKING TRIP JUST TO PARTICIPATE IN THREE WAY TALKS, AND THAT IMPORTANCE OF MEETING SHOULD THUS BE OBVIOUS. HOWEVER, HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY DISCUSSIONOF SUBSTANCE OR TO OFFER ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

5. IN PERHAPS RELATED EVENT, GOCB AMBASSADOR HAD LONG MEETING WITH PESIDENT AFTERNOON OCTOBER 14 SHORTLY AFTER TRIPARTITE TALKS CONCLUDED. BONGO WAS JOINED DURING THIS LATTER SESSION BY SEVERAL SENIOR GOG ARMED FORCES AND POLICE OFFICERS, AND MY NORMALLY EBULLIENT GOCB COLLEAGUE (WITH WHOM PERSNOAL RELATIONS ARE GOOD) EMERGED FROM PRESIDENTIAL PRESENCE IN UNUSUALLY SOMBER MOOD. INDEED, HE AS SO EXCEPTIONALLY SUBDUED THAT GOG MINTRANPSORT
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PAGE 03 LIBREV 02076 160712Z

RAWIRI, PRESENT IN WAITING ROOM, WAS MOVED TO COMMENT T ME AFTERWARD ON FACT THAT GOCB AMBASSADOR WAS, IN RAWIRIS WORDS, "REALLY DRAGGING."

6. WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY PIECES OF SEEMING JIGSAW PUZZLE WHICH ADDRESSES CAN SUPPLY, AS EVEN OUR BEST GABONESE FRIENDS SEEM UNPREPARED TO PROVIDE FURTHER ENLIGHTENMENT. STEIGMAN

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